

What is claimed is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a storage for storing determined data for controlling image formation;  
a determined data providing section for performing a processing concerning a predetermined request;  
a determined data obtaining section for making the predetermined request; and  
a controller for controlling the determined data providing section and the determined data obtaining section.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an operation selecting section for selecting any one of the determined data providing section and the determined data obtaining section to be operated.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the determined data include at least one of data concerning an operation of the apparatus, an apparatus adjustment value of the apparatus, data concerning a user of the apparatus and a registered mail addresses.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the determined data obtaining section transfers the determined data from or to an external image forming apparatus.

5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the operation selecting section is an operation section comprising at least one of a touch panel, an operation key and a pointing device.

6. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the determined data obtaining section performs an operation for transferring the determined data to an external image forming apparatus, and an operation for making the external image forming apparatus transfer determined data stored in the external image forming apparatus, and

the operation selecting section selects any one of the operations.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a determined data transfer section for transferring the determined data to a plurality of external image forming apparatuses in order.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the storage comprises a nonvolatile memory, and

the processing concerning the predetermined request includes a processing for rewriting determined data stored in the nonvolatile memory.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the

determined data providing section includes a HTTP server program for performing a processing concerning the predetermined request requested by an external HTTP client, and

the determined data obtaining section includes a HTTP client program for making the predetermined request to an external HTTP server.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the apparatus is realizable of communication with an external data processing apparatus and the external HTTP server according to the HTTP.

11. A system comprising a plurality of image forming apparatuses comprising: a storage for storing determined data for controlling image formation; a determined data providing section for performing a processing concerning a predetermined request; a determined data obtaining section for making the predetermined request; and a controller for controlling the determined data providing section and the determined data obtaining section, wherein the plurality of image forming apparatuses are connected to the other through a network cable.

12. An information sharing system for image forming apparatuses comprising:

a first image forming apparatus comprising:  
a first storage for storing first determined data for  
controlling image formation;  
a determined data providing section for performing a  
processing concerning a predetermined request; and  
a first controller for controlling the determined  
data providing section; and  
a second image forming apparatus comprising:  
a second storage for storing second determined data  
for controlling image formation;  
a determined data obtaining section for making the  
predetermined request; and  
a second controller for controlling the determined  
data providing section.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the determined  
data obtaining section sends determined data request data  
for requesting the first determined data to the determined  
data providing section, and

the determined data providing section provides the  
first determined data requested based on the determined  
data request data.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the first  
controller reads the first determined data stored in the  
first storage, and makes the determined data providing

section send the first determined data to the second image forming apparatus, and

the second controller stores the first determined data received by the determined data obtaining section from the first image forming apparatus in the second storage.

15. The system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of first image forming apparatuses and a plurality of second image forming apparatuses,

wherein the determined data obtaining section of any one of the plurality of second image forming apparatuses sends the determined data request data for requesting the first determined data of any one of the plurality of first image forming apparatuses, to the any one of the plurality of first image forming apparatuses, and

the first controller of the first image forming apparatus which receives the determined data request data reads the first determined data requested based on the determined data request data out of the first storage, and makes the determined data providing section send the first determined data to the second image forming apparatus.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein each of the first determined data, the second determined data and the determined data request data include item identification data for identifying a determined item.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the second storage comprises a storage area corresponding to the item identification data, and

the second controller stores the first determined data received from the first image forming apparatus in the second storage when determining that the second storage comprises a storage area corresponding to the item identification data included in the first determined data received from the first image forming apparatus.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the second controller stores the item identification data and a data storage capacity threshold related to the item identification data in the second storage, and stores the first determined data received from the first image forming apparatus in the second storage when determining that data amount of the first determined data received from the first image forming apparatus is not more than the data storage capacity threshold corresponding to the item identification data included in the first determined data.

19. The system of claim 12, wherein the first image forming apparatus further comprises a second determined data obtaining section for making a predetermined request,  
the second image forming apparatus further comprises

a second determined data providing section for performing a processing concerning the predetermined request,

the first controller controls the second determined data obtaining section to request the second determined data providing section to output the second determined data, and

the second controller controls the second determined data providing section to provide the second determined data to the second determined data obtaining section.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein each of the first determined data and the second determined data include item identification data for identifying a determined item.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the first storage comprises a storage area corresponding to the item identification data, and

the first controller stores the second determined data received from the second image forming apparatus in the first storage when determining that the first storage comprises a storage area corresponding to the item identification data included in the second determined data received from the second image forming apparatus.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the first

controller stores the item identification data and a data storage capacity threshold related to the item identification data in the first storage, and stores the second determined data received from the second image forming apparatus in the first storage when determining that data amount of the second determined data received the second image forming apparatus is not more than the data storage capacity threshold corresponding to the item identification data included in the second determined data.

23. The system of claim 12, further comprising a data processing apparatus comprising an instruction sending section for sending a determined data providing instruction to at least the first controller,

wherein the first image forming apparatus further comprises an instruction receiving section for receiving the determined data providing instruction sent from the instruction sending section, and

the first controller provides the first determined data to the second image forming apparatus on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the data processing apparatus further comprises an input receiving section for receiving an input of a determined data



providing apparatus capable of receiving the determined data providing instruction,

wherein the instruction sending section sends the determined data providing instruction to the determined data providing apparatus received by the input receiving section.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein the first image forming apparatus further comprises a determination section for determining the first determined data,

the first storage stores the first determined data determined by the determination section, and a determined data transfer address to which the first determined data are transferred, and

the determined data providing section provides the first determined data stored in the first storage to the determined data transfer address, on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the first controller determines whether the second image forming apparatus having the determined data transfer address to which the first determined data are transferred is capable of receiving data or not, and

the determined data providing section provide the

first determined data to the second image forming apparatus when the first controller determines that the second image forming apparatus is capable of receiving data.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the first controller communicates with the second image forming apparatus, and determines whether the second image forming apparatus is capable of receiving data or not on the basis of a communication result.

28. The system of claim 23, wherein the first controller selects determined data instructed to be provided from the first determined data stored in the first storage on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section, and

the determined data providing section provides the determined data selected by the first controller to the second image forming apparatus.

29. The system of claim 23, wherein the first storage stores a plurality of determined data transfer addresses to which the first determined data are transferred,

the first controller selects any one of the plurality of determined data transfer addresses stored in the first

storage on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section, and

the determined data providing section provides the first determined data to the determined data transfer address selected.

30. The system of claim 23, wherein the second image forming apparatus further comprises a determined data renewing section for renewing the second determined data stored in the second storage based on the first determined data received by the determined data obtaining section from the first image forming apparatus.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the second image forming apparatus further comprises a save section for saving the second determined data stored in the second storage when renewing the second determined data stored in the second storage based on the first determined data received by the determined data obtaining section from the first image forming apparatus.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the determined data providing section sends data for instructing whether to save the second determined data stored in the second storage in the save section of the second image forming

apparatus or not, when providing the first determined data stored in the first storage to the second image forming apparatus on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section.

33. The system of claim 23, further comprising a plurality of first image forming apparatuses comprising determination sections for determining the first determined data, and a plurality of second image forming apparatuses,

wherein the data processing apparatus further comprises a specifying section for specifying any first image forming apparatus of the plurality of first image forming apparatuses to provide the first determined data, an item of the first determined data of the first image forming apparatus to be provided, and any second image forming apparatus of the plurality of second image forming apparatuses to which the first determined data corresponding to the item are provided,

the instruction sending section sends the determined data providing instruction and information specified by the specifying section to the first controller of the first image forming apparatus specified by the specifying section,

the first storage stores the first determined data determined by the determination section, and a determined data transfer address to which the first determined data are transferred,

the determined data providing section provides the first determined data stored in the first storage to the determined data transfer address on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section, and

the second image forming apparatus further comprises a determined data renewing section for renewing the second determined data stored in the second storage based on the first determined data received by the determined data obtaining section from the first image forming apparatus.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the second image forming apparatus further comprises a save section for saving the second determined data stored in the second storage when receiving the first determined data from the first image forming apparatus.

35. The system of claim 23, wherein the second image forming apparatus an existing data sending section for sending the second determined data stored in the second storage to the data processing apparatus when receiving the first determined data from the first image forming apparatus, and

the data processing apparatus further comprises a save section for saving the second determined data received from the second image forming apparatus.

36. The system of claim 33, wherein the specifying section of the data processing apparatus specifies whether to save the second determined data stored in the second storage of the second image forming apparatus to which the first determined data are provided or not,

the instruction sending section of the data processing apparatus sends the determined data providing instruction and information specified by the specifying section to the first image forming apparatus specified by the specifying section,

the instruction receiving section of the first image forming apparatus receives the determined data providing instruction from the data processing apparatus, and

the determined data providing section of the first image forming apparatus sends data for instructing whether to save the second determined data stored in the second storage of the second image forming apparatus or not when providing the first determined data stored in the first storage to the second image forming apparatus on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the instruction receiving section.

37. The system of claim 33, wherein the first image forming apparatus further comprises a second determined data obtaining section for making a predetermined request,

the second image forming apparatus further comprises a second determined data providing section for performing a processing concerning the predetermined request,

the instruction sending section of the data processing apparatus sends the determined data providing instruction to the second controller,

the second image forming apparatus further comprises a second instruction receiving section for receiving the determined data providing instruction sent from the instruction sending section, and

the second controller provides the second determined data to the first image forming apparatus on the basis of the determined data providing instruction received by the second instruction receiving section.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the second image forming apparatus further comprises a second determination section for determining the second determined data,

the second storage stores the second determined data determined by the second determination section, and a determined data transfer address to which the second determined data are transferred, and

the second determined data providing section provides the second determined data stored in the second storage to the determined data transfer address on the basis of the

determined data providing instruction received by the second instruction receiving section.

39. The system of claim 38, wherein the second controller determines whether the first image forming apparatus to which the second determined data are transferred is capable of receiving data or not, and

the second determined data providing section provides the second determined data to the first image forming apparatus when the second controller determines that the first image forming apparatus is capable of receiving data.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein the second controller communicates with the first image forming apparatus, and determines whether the first image apparatus is capable of receiving data or not on the basis of a communication result.